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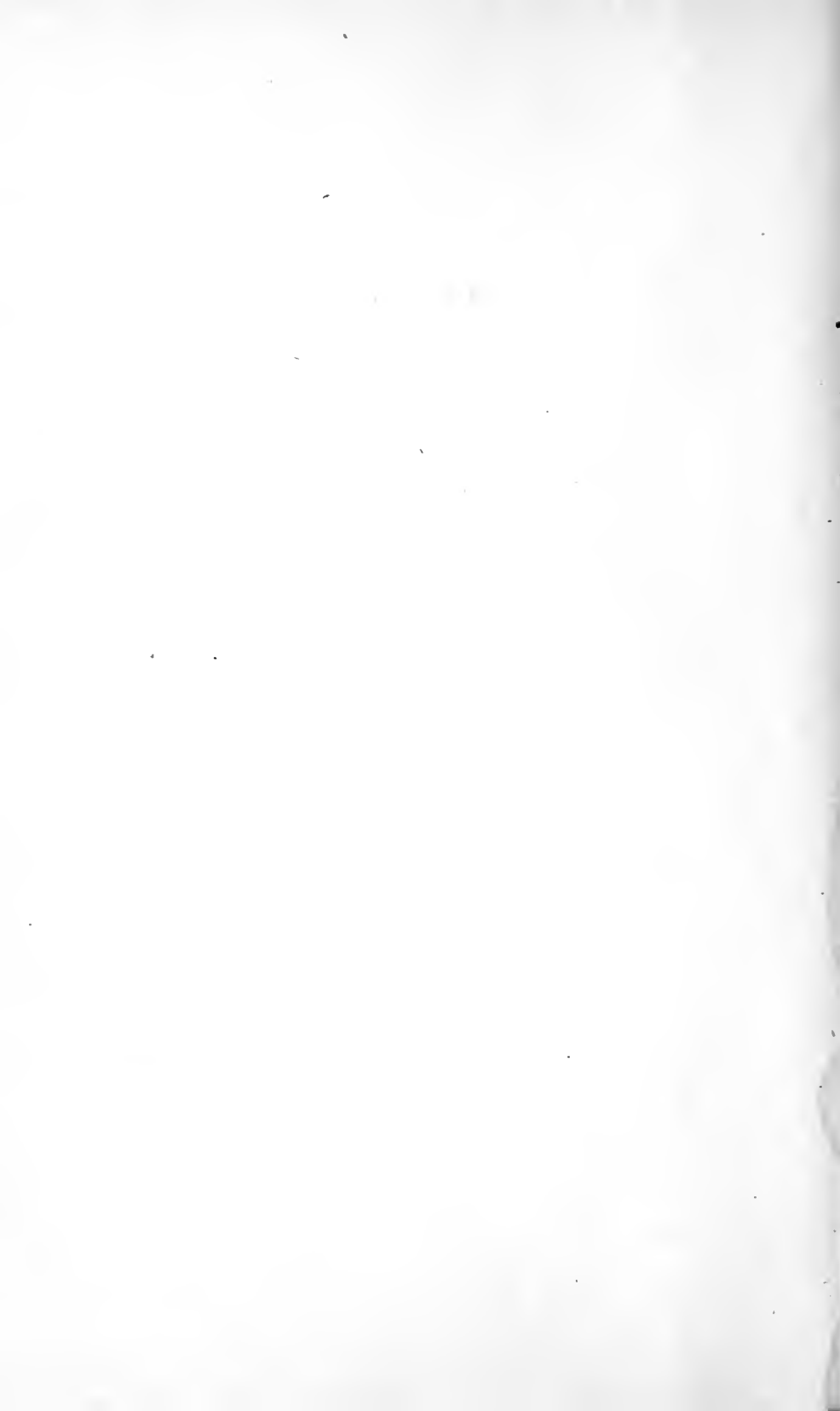
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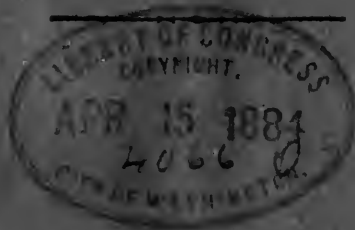
Home College Series.

Number ~~~~~ * ~~~~~ Six.

ENGLAND.

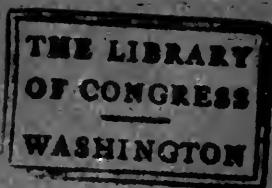
BY

REV. J. I. BOSWELL.



NEW YORK:
PHILLIPS & HUNT.
CINCINNATI:
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1883.



THE "HOME COLLEGE SERIES" will contain one hundred short papers on a wide range of subjects—biographical, historical, scientific, literary, domestic, political, and religious. Indeed, the religious tone will characterize all of them. They are written for every body—for all whose leisure is limited, but who desire to use the minutes for the enrichment of life.

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And what a young man may do in this respect, a young woman, and both old men and old women, may do.

J. H. VINCENT.

New York, Jan., 1893.

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ENGLAND.

BY REV. J. I. BOSWELL.

THE ocean steamer drops anchor in the river Mersey, and the tourist is in Liverpool. Let him take the "Great Western" Railroad and spend a day in quaint old Chester, a day at Stratford-upon-Avon, and see Shakspeare's tomb and house, and a day at classic Oxford. And then—London!

London as it is. London is the metropolis of England, and the greatest city of the modern world. It lies on both banks of the river Thames. Every thing about the city is on a gigantic scale. It is the financial center of the world, and the political and commercial center of Great Britain and her numerous colonies. Its population has doubled within fifty years, and the greater part of the city has been rebuilt within the past century. It now covers 122 square miles, numbers 7,400 streets, and 530,000 buildings, and its present population is about four millions. "There are in London more Scotchmen than in Edinburgh, more Irish than in Dublin, more Jews than in Palestine, and more Roman Catholics than in Rome." From May to July is "the season" when crowds of visitors are to be seen. In three weeks the diligent tourist can see the principal objects of interest, though many weeks can be spent to advantage. An American will pay repeated visits to Westminster Abbey among the tombs of the illustrious dead. The Tower, the British and South Kensington Museums, with their unrivaled treasures; St. Paul's Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament, and the National Gallery of Art, are most attractive places. In the suburbs are Hampton Palace, Crystal Palace, Kew

Gardens, and twenty miles away, Windsor Castle, by far the most interesting of all the castles of England. London may be divided into two parts—*the city*, where the money is made, and *the West End*, where the money is spent. In the city are found the Bank, the Exchange, the Custom-house, and the spacious docks filled with shipping from all parts of the world. In the West End are found the palaces, the mansions of the nobility, and the spacious parks. London is the best place in which to study England.

Roman Period, B.C. 55–A.D. 445. In the year 55 B.C., a war fleet from Rome, under Julius Cæsar, reached the shores of Britain. At this period authentic history begins. Cæsar invaded the land and left us an account of it. The people were governed by the Druids who were not only priests, but also teachers and judges. Under Claudius Britain became a Roman province, and so continued until the Roman legions were recalled. Traces of Roman occupation are found in old roads and tombs and in fragments of mosaic pavements. Traces are also found in the names of the months, in the marriage and funeral ceremonies, in the May-day festivals, and in some of the old English customs and superstitions.

Anglo-Saxon Period, 445 A.D.–1066 A.D. The Britons when the Roman soldiers were withdrawn could not defend themselves from the attacks of the Picts, so they called the Saxons to their aid. These came over and were followed by the Angles and other Germanic tribes. The home of the Angles was the land now called Sleswick-Holstein. They were a race of farmers, and managed their affairs in village meetings. They were a warlike people and fond of the sea; and their favorite recreations were feasting and hunting. Women were treated with great respect, and religious rites were carefully observed.

Step by step these foreign tribes advanced into Britain, and at last conquered it and divided it into the seven kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy. The central figure of this period is Alfred the Great. (871-901.) He met the Danes, who were the pirates of the sea, and defeated them. He built a fleet of war ships, he revised the laws, and took care that they were well executed ; he founded the university at Oxford, translated good books out of Latin into English, and did so many things for the good of his people that his name is cherished with peculiar affection. In this period Christianity was fairly introduced by St. Augustine. (597 A.D.) He built a church in Canterbury, and established an Abbey. With the aid of Ethelbert, the king, he did much to propagate the Christian faith, and the effect of his work is every-where manifest. The conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to the Christian faith was the first and greatest of the causes which has made England what she is. The second was the destruction of prejudices between the various races.

Edward the Confessor made London the capital, and built Westminster Abbey. He was followed by Harold, who lost both his kingdom and life at the battle of Hastings.

The Norman Rule, 1066-1215. The battle of Hastings was one of the world's decisive battles. As a result, William of Normandy entered London, and was crowned king in Westminster Abbey. He brought with him a host of French warriors, and the land was divided among them. The Saxons became slaves, and were treated harshly by the French barons. William built the London Tower to keep the people in check. He made a thorough survey of the country, and the record was called Domesday-book, for men said it was so complete that it would last till the day of doom. French language was used by the ruling classes, and French customs were the fashion. But England was saved from becoming a French colony by the vices and follies of King

John. He was forced to give up Normandy, he lost the love of the clergy by his quarrel with the Pope, and he estranged the barons by his cruel taxations. The barons demanded justice, and for the first time the people were with the barons and against the king. The king met the barons at Runnymede, and there, in the year 1215, he put his name to that immortal State paper known as the *Great Charter*. This paper promised to the Church all its rights, and contained the declaration that the king would not raise money without the consent of the Great Council. This power of the purse has always been zealously guarded by Parliament. Between the windows of the House of Peers in London are statues of the barons who extorted this great charter from their king.

From Magna Charter to the Reformation, 1215-1509. Great events took place in England during this period. Three kingly houses bore rule, Plantagenet, (1154-1399,) Lancaster, (1399-1461,) and York, (1461-1485.) When the Great Charter was signed the English nation began to be. Up to this time there had been a gulf between the Anglo-Saxons, who were slaves, and the Norman French, who were their masters. As years rolled by, this gulf became more and more narrow. The two languages became fused, the two races intermarried, and in the presence of a danger that threatened both, gained a freedom which sheltered both. Early in the fourteenth century the union of races was complete, the national character was formed, language became fixed, and there appeared the first dawn of that noble literature which is the most splendid and enduring of the many glories of England. Under Henry II. the Church of Rome made its highest pretensions. The claims it made might be pardoned in a rude age. The king oppressed the people, and it was a good thing to confront him with the terrors of the Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury

was Thomas á Becket, beloved of the people. He met the king with haughty pride, but was murdered by four knights. The struggle went on until centuries passed away.

Then came the Crusades, in which Richard the Lion-hearted won his fame. Though too much valuable life and wealth were sacrificed to gain Jerusalem, yet there were good effects from the Crusades. Travel was promoted, and intercourse between nations was established. For nearly two hundred years the kings of the house of Plantagenet sought to make permanent conquests in Europe. Their efforts were in vain. With sad hearts the nation withdrew to its island home. That which seemed to be a misfortune, time has proved to be a great blessing, for England's greatest triumphs have been in the arts of peace.

It would be tedious to recount the wars between rival houses, known as the War of the Roses, the Conquest of Scotland, in spite of the bravery of Bruce and Wallace, and the rebellion of Tyler and Cade. Steadily the social life was advancing, and the glimpses of this life are of more interest than the record of sieges and battles.

The Reformation. This period is comprised in the reign of the Tudors. Henry VII., the first of this house, by a fortunate marriage put an end to the War of the Roses. His son, Henry VIII., ascended the throne in the year 1509, while yet a young man. Art has made his bloated face and form familiar to the world. He was a man of wonderful strength of will, and went straight forward to his purpose. Wolsey was his chief adviser, but when this proud and wealthy priest stood in his way he was cast aside. Henry won from the Pope the title "Defender of the Faith," but when the Pope tried to thwart him in his marriage, Henry defied him. He broke with the Pope and established a Church independent of Rome. In this he was aided partly by the English people, for the writings of Wycliffe had taken deep

root in a genial soil. The monasteries were suppressed, and Cranmer was called to form the Established Church. Edward VI., in his brief reign, encouraged the reform faith, but under Mary a temporary reaction set in. She executed Lady Jane Grey, who aspired to the throne. She married Philip, of Spain, and by bloody persecution of Protestants sought to restore Roman Catholicism. She failed, and died heart-broken. Elizabeth became queen, and her reign of forty-five years will ever live in history. She placed Protestantism on a firm basis, and called around her men whose fame has filled the world. Spain threatened the conquest of England, and the danger was great indeed. But the Spanish fleet, the "Invincible Armada," was destroyed, and England was safe. Elizabeth never married, though her suitors were many. Burghley was for many years her adviser in matters of State. Among the eminent men who surrounded her were Drake, who sailed round the world ; and Raleigh, the soldier, scholar, poet ; and Essex, the ornament of court and camp ; while among the great writers are numbered Spenser, Shakspeare, and Bacon. This was the the golden age of English literature.

Conflict between King and Parliament, 1603-1688. This conflict deserves careful study, for its results affect not only England but America. It began with the first of the house of Stuarts—James I., (1603-1625,) and ended with the accession of William and Mary, (1688.) It had its root in the arbitrary temper of the kings of the Stuart line. Charles I., like his father, wanted money, but Parliament would grant money only on condition that he would grant the nation certain rights. He refused. He tried to arrest the leading members of Parliament, he performed one arbitrary act after another, until the nation arose in civil war, under the leadership of Cromwell, defeated the king's army, and struck off the king's head in front of his own

palace. Cromwell then became Lord Protector of England, and his rule was wise and vigorous. Milton defended his course, and in our day Carlyle has shown the world what kind of a man he was. But the desire for a king returned, and Charles II. was crowned amid wild rejoicing. The reign of the Puritan was ended, and the reign of the profligate began. It was an evil time. James II. followed. He was a Roman Catholic, and a tyrant, and the people called William of Orange, who, with his wife, ruled the people. Anne, the younger daughter of James II., followed, and her reign is memorable by the brilliant victories of Marlborough and the writings of Pope and Addison.

During this period the Gunpowder Plot was formed and detected. It was a plot to blow up the Parliament buildings with gunpowder, and destroy a Protestant king and his rulers. It failed, and led to persecution of the Romanists. The great Plague of London was followed by the great fire, and that by the rebuilding of St. Paul's Cathedral, which is the architect's best monument. Among the many eminent men of this period are Milton, the poet ; Locke, the philosopher ; George Fox, founder of the Quakers ; and Sir Isaac Newton, the astronomer. The conflict between the king and Parliament ended with a victory for the latter, which ended in greater freedom for the people. The question at issue was more than a mere financial question.

The House of Hanover, 1714 to present time.—The reign of the four Georges is eventful. The reign of George II. lasted thirty-three years, and during this period England extended her dominion in America and in India. The celebrated Lord Chatham was now in power, and he infused his energy into all with whom he had to do. As an orator he was powerful, as a statesman patriotic and daring. A contest arose in America between the French and English settlers. The English desired to pass into Ohio, but were

restrained by a line of military posts. War arose, but ended with the splendid victory of Wolfe, which made America English in its language and civilization. All England rejoiced over the victory of Wolfe, and wept over his death; and twenty-five years later Cowper declared that it was

“Praise enough

To fill the ambition of a private man

That Chatham's language was his mother tongue,

And Wolfe's great name compatriot with his own.”

A similar contest took place in India, and ended with a similar result. India has been the prize of ancient and modern commerce. In 1612 the “East India Company” had established itself in India. A conflict arose between it and a French trading company. The French tried to expel the English, but in vain. The genius and daring of Robert Clive and English troops triumphed. Few things are more wonderful than the military career of Clive, who laid broad and deep the foundations of the British Empire in India. He was followed by Warren Hastings and by other wise statesmen, and British rule seems now to be firmly established. The opening of the Suez Canal, and the railroad and telegraph lines give England ready communication with this great empire.

The reign of George III. was the longest in English history, and lasted sixty years. During his reign the war of the American Revolution took place, which gave independence to the English colonies. The colonies took the ground that “taxation without representation” was “tyranny,” but the king persisted and failed.

Then came the great conflict of the allied powers of Europe against Napoleon. The policy of non-interference was not in favor at that time, and William Pitt was then in power. It was determined to crush the dangerous usurper in France. The conflict raged for years, and blood and treasure were poured forth like water. During the war

Nelson won a splendid victory by sea at Trafalgar, and Wellington, by the great and decisive battle of Waterloo in 1815, finished the struggle and ended the career of Napoleon.

Under William IV. slavery was abolished in the West Indies, and the Reform Bill was passed.

The long line of British sovereigns ends with *Victoria*, who was born in 1819, and ascended the throne in 1837. She was married in 1840 to her cousin, Prince Albert. Among her nine children is Victoria, the first-born, who married the Crown Prince of Germany, and Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, who married the Princess of Denmark, and who is heir apparent to the throne.

English Traits. The Englishman shows that he is a descendant of the old Angle-man. In him there is the same love of work and of adventure, the same respect for law, and the same religious nature. Apart from education he is rough, though hearty. He is fond of the sea, and the greatest of his heroes is not Wellington, the soldier, but Nelson, the fighting sailor. When he travels he is apt to carry his local customs and prejudices with him. His sports are those which call for strength and endurance. Horse racing is the national game, and feasting is the hand-maiden of charity. His power to organize is very great, and societies to promote business or science or reforms are abundant. He is charitable when conscience is touched. Types of the John Bull of caricature are found in Henry VIII., in Charles James Fox, and in Samuel Johnson. The one thing which has made the Englishman something more than a working, governing, feasting, fighting being, is the influence of religion upon his strong conscience. In battle, "duty" is his war-cry. "England expects every man to do his duty," cried Nelson, and the sentiment was applauded by the nation as a true honest English sentiment.

Until recent years the Englishman has not ranked high as an artist, though he has been a most generous patron of art. The choicest pictures are by Italians. Kneller and West were foreigners, and Handel, author of the "Messiah," the national oratorio, was a German. Within thirty years great attention has been paid to art culture, owing partly to the first International Exhibition, and the founding of the South Kensington Museum.

The inventive genius of the nation has enriched it. It has pushed its commerce into every sea, and planted its colonies around the world. The glory of Great Britain is "Greater Britain," that is, the colonies in North America, Australia, and South Africa, some of which have become mighty States or nations ; and one of the proudest titles of Queen Victoria is "Empress of India."

Language. The languages of Europe came from India. The Teutonic tribes which conquered England gave it their language—the Anglo-Saxon—which comprises about half the words in the modern dictionary, and much more than half the words we commonly speak. Articles, pronouns, and adverbs, are, for the most part, Anglo-Saxon ; and such words as man, tree, mother, home, happiness, and heaven. The people speak Anglo-Saxon, and books printed for them, or sermons preached to them, should abound in these words. The English language has, however, been a great borrower from others. A large part of these borrowed words come from the Latin language through French sources. Words connected with Church or religion are mainly Latin—as preacher, bishop, clerk. -A few are from the Greek—as church and alms ; which language is also used to express modern inventions, as telegraph and stereoscope. Law terms are generally Latin. The ancient Celtic gives us "bard" and "Druid," and some words of recent introduction, as "brogue" and "whisky." There are words in the lan-

guage taken from the Hebrew, Turkish, Arabic, and many other sources. Modern English is less musical than the languages of the South, but in force and richness is inferior to that of Greece alone. It is spoken by many millions, and is spreading among the nations of the earth. The greater part of those who travel for gain or pleasure speak this language.

Literature. English literature began with ballads, whose verses were rude and vigorous. Chaucer (born 1340) is the father of English poetry, and his Canterbury Tales are the best evidence of his genius, and are of value to the historian, as they reflect the customs of that age. Spenser (born 1552) wrote the "Faerie Queen," a poem in twelve books, full of the adventures of fairies, dwarfs, and giants, but written with exquisite grace and sweetness. It is a poem for poets to study, and by them it will be loved while our language lasts.

Dramatic poetry culminated with Shakspeare, whose dramas are for all time. Tainted as some of them are with the coarseness of the age, they show the workings of human souls under every variety of passion. He was followed by John Milton, (born 1608,) whose "Paradise Lost" is the greatest epic poem in the language. Milton was a great scholar, and his prose writings in defense of liberty are second only to his poems.

These four poets are in the first class, and since their day no one, from Dryden to Tennyson, has appeared who has equaled them. Of the later poets Pope was most popular in his life-time, and Byron also. Wordsworth ranks high with the literary few, and others have written occasional poems which will live, as the "Ancient Mariner," by Coleridge; and the "Elegy in a Country Church-yard," by Gray.

The essay has been a favorite form of composition. Ba-

con's essays are the briefest, and, perhaps, the best ; Addison's the most graceful ; and the essays of Macaulay and Carlyle the most widely read in the present age. In his historical composition the literature is rich beyond comparison. "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," by Gibbon, is a work of great learning, and the history of the English Revolution of 1688 is told by Macaulay in a style which has fascinated a multitude of readers.

Novels abound. The works of Fielding, Smollett, and Sterne, are now neglected, for their coarseness has sealed their fate. Dickens and Thackeray are widely read, but whether their popularity will be permanent remains to be seen. Scott's novels are losing their hold, though "Ivanhoe" will compare favorably with any thing in the whole range of fiction. The greatest biography in the English language, or in any other, is the "Life of Samuel Johnson," and the greatest allegory is "Pilgrim's Progress."

Arts and Inventions.—The English race is not a race of artists, but there are some who have risen to high rank. The architects went to Italy for their models. The greatest of English architects is Sir Christopher Wren, and the great fire of London gave him the opportunity to display his genius. His masterpiece is St. Paul's Cathedral, which is the third in size of the churches of Christendom. It was thirty-five years in building, and Wren was its only architect. For many years the most noted painters in England were of foreign birth. At last William Hogarth arose, and his pictures of social life are really novels on canvas. He paints England as it was in his day. Engravings of his pictures were issued by him, and had a wide circulation. After him came Reynolds, whose lectures on painting did much to help that noble art. Turner is among the greatest of English artists, and he bequeathed many of his paintings to the British nation. Landseer is the painter of animals.

But no painter is so popular with all classes as David Wilkie, whose "Blind Fiddler" and "Blind Man's Buff" touch all hearts.

Flaxman ranks first among the sculptors, and his style is formed from the closest study of Greek art. Chantrey and Bacon are well known by their sepulchral monuments in Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's.

The wealth of England has enabled her to amass vast art treasures. The National Gallery has choice works by Flemish, Italian, and Spanish artists; the British Museum contains the sculptures from the exterior of the Parthenon at Athens, and these are now the finest specimens of Greek art in the world. The cartoons of Raphael are in the South Kensington Museum. These collections have done much to promote a love for art.

In music there has been a steady progress, and in no part of the world can finer choral singing be heard than in some of the large towns of England.

The great inventions which have enriched England date from a recent period. In 1762 the first canal was opened. Five years later the spinning-jenny was invented, and in 1787 the power-loom. These and similar inventions have multiplied the efficiency of each workman two or three hundred fold. But the greatest of all was that of the steam-engine, by James Watt, and when the engine was made by Stephenson to draw cars along an iron rail, its triumph was complete. It is hard to estimate the increased wealth of England which has come through the steam-engine. The extent and value of her manufactured goods prompt her to seek markets for them in distant lands, and her commerce has grown with her manufactures.

Religion.—The religion of England is the Christian religion. It was introduced by priests from Rome, and in the time of Alfred the Great was very prosperous. The clergy grew in power and wealth, and a period of corruption set in.

Wycliffe, Tyndale and other reformers appeared, and in the time of Henry VIII. the doctrines of the Protestant reformers triumphed. The Church of England was established, to which a majority of the population now adhere. Its doctrines are found in the prayer book; but are more fully set forth in the Thirty-Nine Articles and the Homilies. It is rich in church buildings, and has under its control the great universities and the great public schools of England. It can boast of a host of eminent writers on theology, as Barrow, South, and Taylor. In 1869 this Church was disestablished in Ireland.

The largest body of "Dissenters" in England is the Wesleyan body, divided now into several branches. This body grew out of a great revival of religion in the last century, mainly under John and Charles Wesley, and George Whitfield, the most eloquent evangelist of modern times.

In 1781 Robert Raikes, of Gloucester, gathered a number of children and had them taught on Sunday. He published his experiment, and from this arose the system of Sunday schools, which is so great an agent in the spread of Christian truth.

Modern Christian missions had their origin at the close of the last century. In 1793 William Carey sailed for India, and began his great work in that mighty empire. The work was begun amid bitter opposition. Since then societies have been formed, vast sums of money raised, and men like Morrison, Bishop Heber, Henry Martyn, and Robert Livingstone, have given their lives to elevate the people of heathen lands.

But the influence of the Christian religion is seen in England as well as abroad. John Howard visited the prisons, and caused a reform in the prison system, and William Wilberforce led the Parliament to emancipate the slaves in the West Indies. At present a great effort is made to repress intemperance, which is indeed a giant evil.

England as it is. England shows no signs of decay. Alarmists have asserted that her decline was at hand, but their fears rest on no solid basis. The national debt is easily borne, the coal fields are practically inexhaustible, and the panic of foreign invasion which has more than once seized the nation proves to be groundless. The wealth of the country has grown with amazing rapidity since 1760. Within a hundred and twenty years all the canals have been built, and the railroads. Great manufacturing towns have sprung up, inventions in machinery multiplied, new sources of vast wealth opened, and commerce vastly extended and increased. England is better fed and better governed than ever before. Nor has there been material prosperity alone. Great charities have sprung up, wise laws been enacted, wrongs redressed, a spirit of humanity has been shown to the neglected and the suffering classes, and a host of workers have toiled or are toiling to make the people wise and good and happy. A great change has come over England since the days of George III., and Americans will prize their country none the less if they learn to know and love the Mother-land.

NOTES.

597. Augustine landed in England, and preached the Christian religion.

705. Venerable Bede translated the Bible, and finished the work on the day of his death.

1323. Wickliffe, the "Morning Star of the Reformation," was born, and translated the Bible.

1509-1547. Reign of Henry VIII., when the Reformation took place, and Cranm r laid the foundations of the Established Church.

1555. Latimer and Ridley burned at Oxford. A monument now stands to their memory.

1611. The authorized version of the Bible (now in use) completed.

1637. Chillingworth declared that "The Bible, the Bible only, is the religion of the Protestants."

Knicht's History of England is among the best for popular reading. Histories of special periods are by Froude and Macaulay. Mackenzie's "History of the Nineteenth Century" has some valuable chapters on the recent progress in England.

ENGLAND.

[THOUGHT-OUTLINE TO HELP THE MEMORY.]

1. Route from Liverpool to London?
2. London—Importance? Size? Population? Principal buildings?
3. The seven periods? Length of each?
4. English traits? Virtues? Faults? In art? Colonies?
5. Father of English poetry? Name several great English writers.
6. Greatest English architect? Masterpiece? Great painters? Great sculptors? Principal art galleries? Great inventions?
7. Religion of England? Reformation? Largest bodies of dissenters? Robert Raikes? Modern Christian missions? John Howard? William Wilberforce?
8. Present condition of England?
9. Important events marking following dates: A. D. 597, 705, 1323, 1509–1547, 1555, 1611, 1637?

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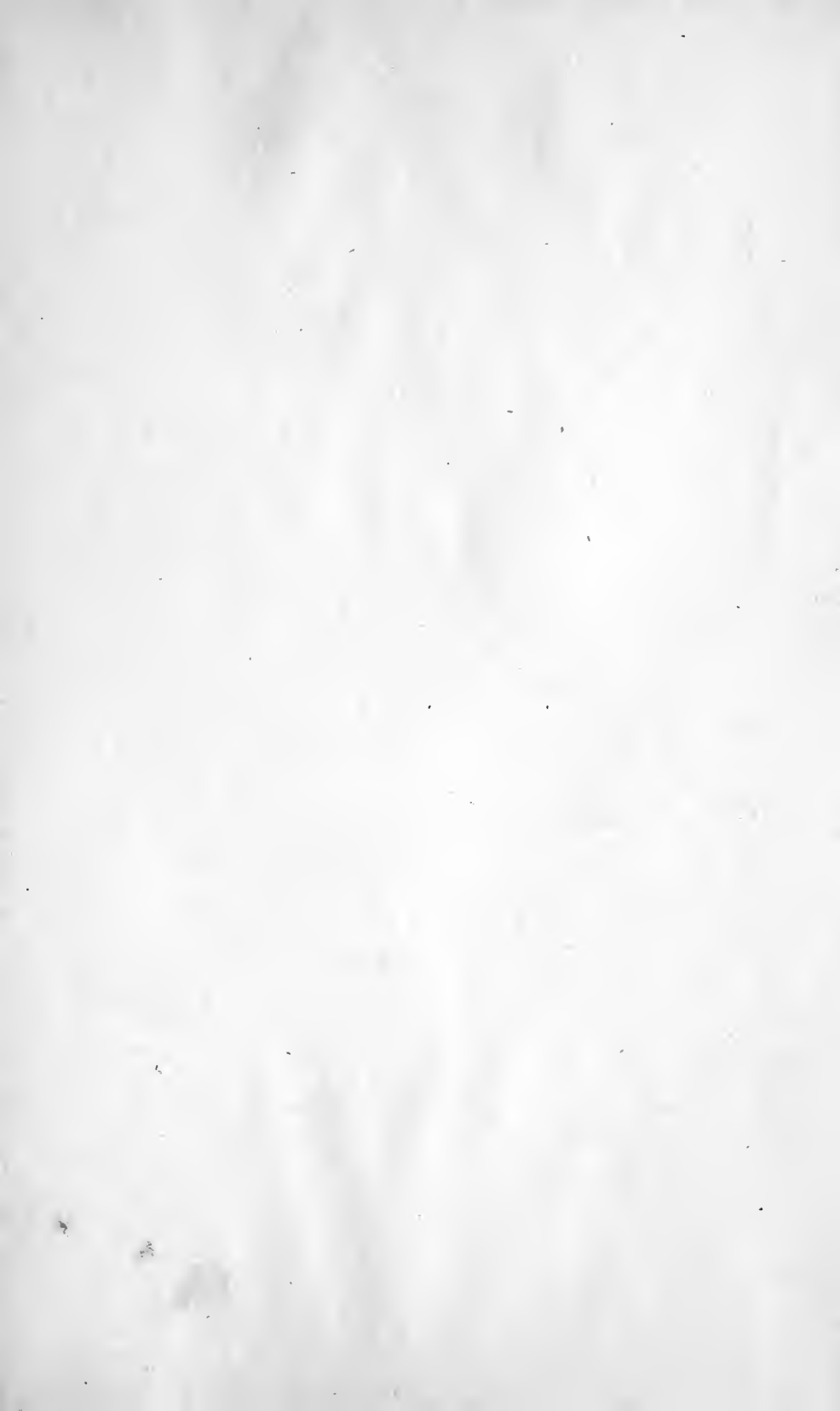
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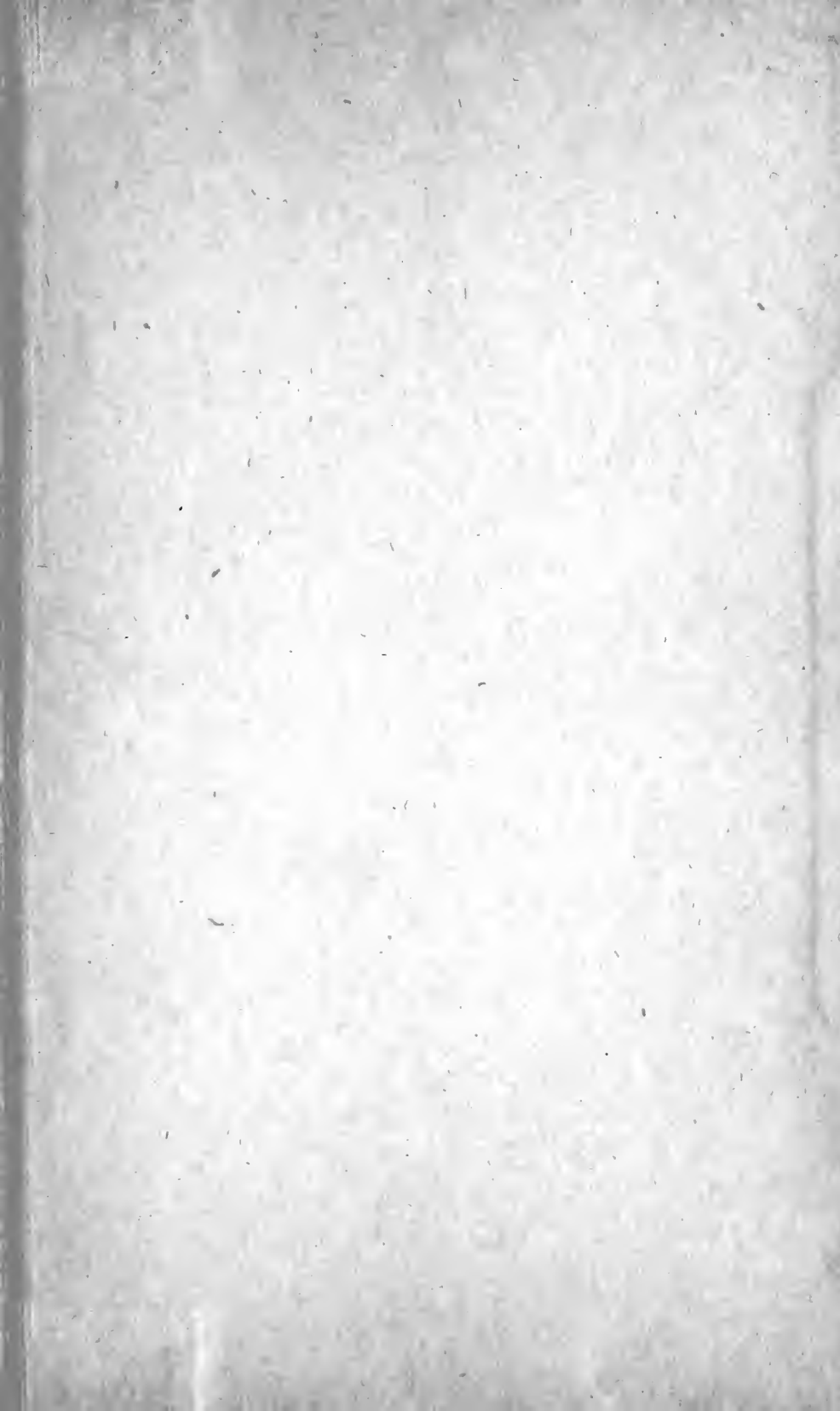












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